THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, if the local product is as efficacious as the foreign product, there is nothing wrong in preventing import of foreign product."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We have got only 15 minutes and we have to cover 25 questions. I pass on to the next question."

Handloom Development Schemes.

* 428 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are financing any Handloom Development Schemes in the State;

(*b*) whether the Government have recommended the schemes to the Central Government, requesting financial aid from the Centre; and

(*c*) the estimated cost and the number of schemes approved by the Central Government?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) The attention of the member is invited to the answer to question No. 71 (starred) by the hon. Member Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, which was placed on the table of the House."

Reduction of assessments of poramboke lands leased out for soaking coconut husks.

* 429 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the rate of assessment in respect of poramboke lands leased out for soaking coconut husks in Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government have no such proposal under consideration."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the assessment of these poramboke lands was raised from Rs. 2–8–0 to Rs. 50 some one or two years back and in view of the great depression in the coir industry, may I request the Government to reconsider the matter and reduce the assessment? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It was already reduced by 25 per cent and the District Collector is given discretion to reduce it as and when there is need for it."

Representation to bring the Rasipuram Weavers' Society within the scope of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act.

* 430 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Sri K. R. Viswanathan, is not in his place. The answer to the question will be printed in the proceedings."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation, dated 9th January 1954, from the Employees' Association of the Rasipuram Weavers' Society requesting that the provisions of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act may be applied to them; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Yes, Sir. A petition, dated 7th January 1954, was received by Government.

" (b) No action was taken by Government on the representation as it was considered too soon to reconsider the orders issued in G.O. No. 4432, Development, dated 29th September 1953 exempting all the Co-operative Societies from all the provisions of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act for a period of one year subject to certain conditions. The orders were issued after careful consideration of all the aspects of the question and the question whether the exemption should be continued after a period of one year or not will be considered by Government in due course."

Detention of S.S.L.C. class students from appearing for the Public Examination.

* 431 Q.—Sri P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of students who were studying in S.S.L.C. class in all the schools in the State at the time of the issue of G.O. No. 2313, Education, dated 7th October 1952; and

(b) the total number of students who were detained from appearing for the Public Examination in 1953?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) 74,555.

" (b) 3,158."

Sri P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR :—" Sir, what is the percentage of students passed in the Public Examination in 1952 and in 1953? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

Delay in the grant of house-sites to Harijans in the South Arcot district.

* 432 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state—

(a) how many cases of acquisition and the grant of house-sites to Harijans are pending in South Arcot district; and

(b) what are the causes for the delay if any in the acquisition and the grant of house-sites?